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Appriss enhances VINELink with Spanish capabilities
Online access to automated victim notification services bridges language gap

Louisville, Ky. — In an effort to help communities to eliminate language barriers for the crime victims they serve, Appriss has made VINELink — the online public version of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) — available in Spanish.

Both the toll-free VINE numbers and VINELink (www.vinelink.com) allow crime victims and other concerned citizens to track the custody status of offenders in jails throughout the country. They can also register to be notified by phone or e-mail of an offender's release, transfer, or escape.

This new language capability will allow VINELink users to toggle between English and Spanish by clicking the language link displayed on the screen, and to search, view, and register for notification in Spanish. States must elect individually to make Spanish available to the VINELink users they serve. However, a comprehensive list of national resources for victims will be available in Spanish and English to all VINELink users, regardless of their location.

Based on U.S. Census population projections, by the year 2050, an estimated 8,891,667 Latinas will suffer from some form of sexual violence. These potential victims will require access to victim services like VINE in the aftermath of a crime.

According to VINE Product Director Tim Bingham, providing VINELink in Spanish is not meant to replace phone access to VINE, and callers can still communicate with live operators through a translator in virtually every community where VINE is available.

“The new language option will allow Spanish-speaking victims to navigate VINELink without a language barrier. This will help communities increase usage and promote multicultural inclusion among those seeking critical victim services,” Bingham said.

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Today, more than 2,300 communities in 46 states are using VINE to provide crime victims and other concerned citizens with timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day — over the telephone, through the Internet, or by e-mail. Since VINE launched, the system has delivered phone notifications for more than four million victim events.

About Appriss

Appriss provides innovative technology solutions that help thousands of local, state, and Federal government agencies serve and protect their citizens. In addition to VINE, other innovative services offered by Appriss include VINE Protective Order®, which automatically notifies petitioners when protective orders are served on respondents; JusticeXchange®, the leading solution connecting criminal justice agencies nationwide; and MethCheck®, an online tool that allows law enforcement to monitor the purchases of pseudoephedrine, a key component in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

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